

Press Release

HARFORD COUNTY GOVERNMENT

Office of the County Executive



PUBLIC SAFETY

"Ensuring a Safe
Harford"

EDUCATION

"Preparing Now,
Building for the Future"

EFFICIENCY IN GOVERNMENT

"Governing Smarter"

ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY

"Growing and Sustaining
Harford's Prosperity"

ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP

"Protecting Our
Environment"

QUALITY LIVING

"Safeguarding What is
Important to Harford
County Citizens"

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: September 10, 2011

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Fire Service Celebrates Grand Opening of New Training Center

New facility replaces former training center at APG

(Edgewood, MD) - - The University of Maryland, Maryland Fire and Rescue Institute has announced the grand opening of the new North East Regional Training Center in Edgewood. The new emergency service training facility is located at 9250 Fairview Point Road on property donated by the United States Army at the Aberdeen Proving Ground. The North East Regional Training Center is one of six regional training centers of MFRI.

More than 200 fire and rescue personnel from throughout the State of Maryland, several members of the Maryland General Assembly and officials from the United States Army at the Aberdeen Proving Ground, joined Steven T. Edwards, Director of the Maryland Fire and Rescue Institute (MFRI) for the grand opening ceremony on Saturday, September 10, 2011. Among those attending were Senator Barry Glassman, Delegate Kathy Szeliga, Delegate Steven J. DeBoy, Sr., and Delegate James E. Malone, Jr. Also in attendance was Clerk of the Court James Reilly, William Dousa, President of the Harford County Volunteer Fire and EMS Association, Dale Lewis, President of the Maryland State Firemen's Association, Major General Nick Justice, United States Army and Colonel Orlando Ortiz, Garrison Commander, APG.

The new state-of-the art emergency services training center will service fire, rescue and EMS personnel from Baltimore City, Baltimore, Harford and Cecil Counties as well as the Aberdeen Proving Ground. The facility replaces the former North East Regional Training Center which opened in the early 1990's off MD Rt. 715 near the main gate of APG.

MFRI, one of the premier fire and emergency services training organizations in the nation and trains approximately 34,000 students each year.

Funding for the new MFRI regional training center was provided by the Maryland General Assembly.

(more)

Fire Service Celebrates Grand Opening of New Training Center
September 10, 2011
Page Two

One of the highlights of the ceremony was a special presentation and recognition of the late Charles Riley, past president of the Maryland State Firemen's Association and long-time chairman of the Maryland Fire-Rescue Education Training Commission. Chief Riley's family was on hand to receive a special plaque presented by Gene Worthington, past president of the Maryland State Firemen's Association and member of the Level Volunteer Fire Company commemorating Chief Riley's life long support for continuing education and training of Maryland fire service personnel. The plaque will be displayed by MFRI at the North East Regional Training Center.

The program concluded with a ceremonial ribbon-cutting by Director Edwards officially proclaiming the opening of the new training center.

At the conclusion of the program, fire, rescue and EMS personnel from Harford and Baltimore Counties performed various training exercises for the attendees.

- 30 -

"Preserving Harford's past; promoting Harford's future"